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Attorney Docket: PB 03 0006 (SPLG 003US1)
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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for distributing software components to a plurality of computer stations that each analyze products, said method comprising:

accessing a test management system that is located remotely from the computer stations,
the test management system storing a plurality of software components;

obtaining a software component including at least one of the software components that
includes information used by a computer station which communicates with a test station to
analyze a product; and

distributing the software component from the test management system, to the computer
station automatically based on at least one of an identification of the test station and an
identification of the product.

2. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining step
comprises downloading, to the computer station, an equipment file set including said software
component, said equipment file set directing the computer station to operate an instrument, said
equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and independent of the
product.

3. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to
test the product and said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station an
equipment file set including said software component, said equipment file set directing the
computer station to analyze the product, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with
the computer station and the instrument and said equipment file set being independent of the
product.

4. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining step
comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing

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the computer station to analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station.

5. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product, said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station a test program set, said test program set directing the computer station to analyze the product, and said test program set being uniquely associated with the product and being associated with the computer station and the instrument.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising testing the product with an instrument based on the software component, wherein the instrument is at least one of a power supply, a communication analyzer, a signal generator, and a frequency counter.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said obtaining step comprises downloading at the computer station at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein an instrument is used to test the product and further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying communications protocols between the computer station, the product and the instrument used to test the product.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing in a database multiple equipment file sets, each equipment file set including at least one file identifying a calibration for an instrument to be used by the computer station to analyze the product.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the information relates to analyzing at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of the printed circuit board assemblies, a module, a circuit pack, a field replaceable unit (FRU), a processor, a memory, and a cable.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing, in a database, multiple test program sets, each of which includes at least one test step execution file

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that identifies steps to be executed by an instrument configured to test the product, wherein said obtaining step comprises accessing the test step execution file.

12. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said test management system ~~obtaining step~~ comprises a management file service accessed ~~accessing~~, by the computer station, ~~a management file server~~ ~~server~~ to download software component updates.

13. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing a relationship between the software components, products, instruments, and computer stations.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising storing in a database information identifying multiple products, test stations used to test each product, instruments used to test the products, and fixtures used to hold the products.

15. (Currently amended) A management system database configured to be used with a computer station that operates an instrument when analyzing a product, the database storing software components that are configured to be executed by the computer station to communicate with and operate the instrument in order to analyze the product, said database located remotely from said computer station and automatically accessing said software components based on identification of at least one of the computer station, the instrument and the product.

16. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one equipment file set defining a station specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution, said equipment file set being uniquely associated with the computer station and the instrument, said equipment file set being independent of the product.

17. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are organized into at least one test program set that defines a product specific test solution to be executed by the computer station to direct the instrument to perform a test solution on the product, said test program set being uniquely associated with the product, said test program set being associated with the instrument and the computer station.

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18. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components correspond to at least one of a communication file, a configuration file, a calibration file, a test executive file, a test sequence file, a specification file, and a test step execution file.

19. (Original) A database in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said software components are configured to control the computer station to analyze at least one of a printed circuit board assembly, a combination of printed circuit board assemblies, a module, a circuit

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